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The magazine of the OS/2 community

Phoenix OS/2 Society

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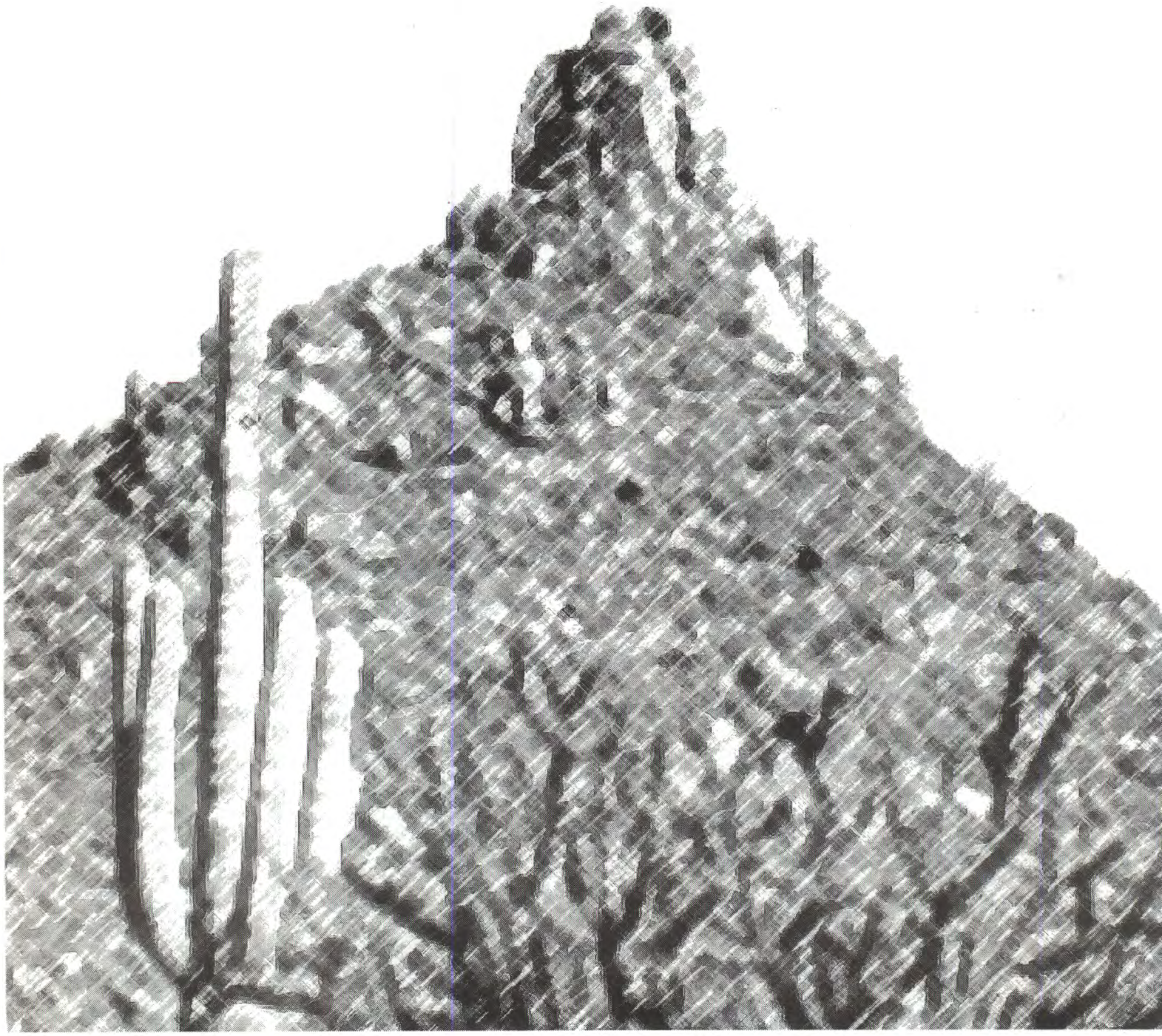

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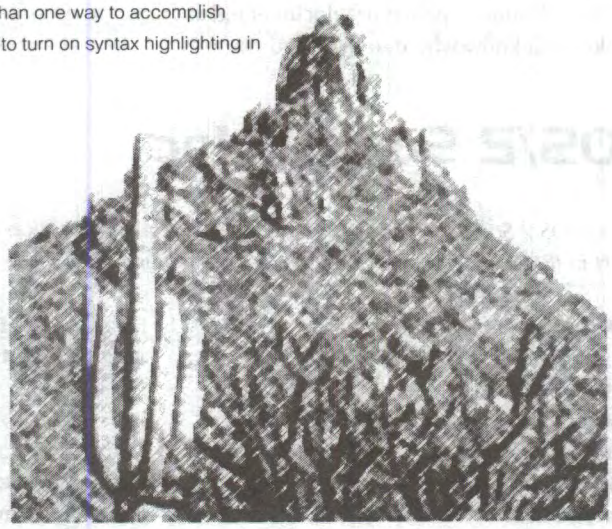

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Stealth Warp 5?

by Bill Schindler, Editor-in-chief

.comment

I have some good news, some bad news, and a challenge. Let's just start out with the bad news: IBM is showing no signs of ever producing a new Warp client version.

Okay, so what? If you've been awake during the last year, you already know that.

All right then, let's get to the good news: IBM snuck a new client out the door without ever telling us. And you may already be using it.

Go dig out the readme.1st that came with the last Fixpack you installed. Search long enough, and you'll find a section listing new features: an improved chkdsk, a registry editor, GRADD drivers, Euro support....

Yeah, yeah. Mostly dull stuff—and taken in total it doesn't begin to add up to a new client version.

But the new stuff listed in readme.1st is just the tip of the iceberg. Here's a couple of examples.

- Object Rexx has been upgraded beyond the documented Y2K fixes. Upgrades include new functions in the RexxUtil library, a new line continuation character (dash instead of comma), and a new style of comment.
- OS/2 Warp now understands Unicode. That means that your US or European version of OS/2 can display and print Thai, Hiragana, Hebrew, Hangul, and (perhaps most important to some of us) curly quotes. And you can do all of them at once!

Neither of these "new feature" updates are documented in the Fixpacks. Unless you know where to dig—and you're looking for these changes—you won't find them. To learn what's really been updated, you have to play sleuth.

For example, the Object Rexx package for OS/2 Warp 3 contains a readme that documents the enhancements and fixes. You can find out what version you have on Warp 4 by running a simple program like this:

```
/**/
PARSE VERSION v; SAY v
```

Look at the version date, then look at the readme file to see what enhancements you have.

Unicode is sort of documented in the Warp 4 programmer's toolkit. There's more interesting documentation in the header files, though—there's a chart that tells you which Unicode codepages are available in which environments.

More digging and sleuthing is certain to turn up even more interesting enhancements that IBM has quietly slipped into the Fixpacks.

So finally, here's the challenge: Find more of these undocumented enhancements in the Fixpacks. Tell me about them, and we'll publish them here and on the POSSI Web site (including your name as the "discoverer" if you like).

Happy sleuthing!

Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc

The Phoenix OS/2 Society, Inc (POSSI) is an international organization of computer users with an interest in IBM's OS/2 operating system and related issues.

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Letters

Letters to the editor should be sent to editor@possi.org or mailed to the Phoenix OS/2 Society. We reserve the right to edit all letters for content, readability, and length.

.type

Zip it, so you don't end up with zip

Jim Lewis' review of some of the OS/2 command line secrets was good educational reading, but what does it mean, that a command is internal?

The article also recalled some bad memories. About a year ago, I decided to clean up up old diskettes, and establish some order in my disorderly collection. This involved the format command, the del command and the copy command. After working for an afternoon, I found myself in the wrong place doing the wrong thing. I had just executed a `DEL *.*` from the root of the boot drive. I had no backup, since this computer was rather new to our family.

Now, to avoid a similar situation, I have created a zip file with copies of all the files in the root of the boot drive. This zip file is stored on another partition. Maybe others can benefit from this cheap advice.

Niels Jensen

[An internal command is a command defined internally by the command processor. External commands are programs external to the command processor. —Editor]

Invoice clients via the Web

press release

TimeBills.com launched the "EZ Invoice" service, a convenient online function that allows members to outsource the creating, printing, addressing, stamping and mailing of invoices. The service is specifically designed for solo practitioners and small businesses. Members will continue to have the option of emailing, faxing or mailing invoices on their own. This automated mailing function is the latest in TimeBills.com's suite of web-hosted invoicing, time tracking and expense management productivity applications, which can be accessed via `www.timebills.com`.

The EZ Invoice service is an efficient way to print, address, stamp and mail each client a two-page, 8.5"x 11" invoice along with a pre-addressed return envelope and a perforated payment stub.

About the TimeBills.com service

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Building an OS/2 technical conference

Getting involved in POSSI's Warp Tech conference

by Esther Schindler

For as long as the Phoenix OS/2 Society has been around, we've stressed the concept of community. We rely on one another for technical assistance, moral support, and the reassurance that we're not alone.

That's part of the reason that POSSI co-sponsored the OS/2 Marketplace with Indelible Blue, and it's why POSSI was involved with the Warpstock conference (`www.warpstock.org`) since the beginning. We're primarily an educational organization, although most of our education is self-taught.

However, magazines and general meetings can go just so far. Eighty percent of our membership is outside Arizona, but every member wants to learn more about OS/2. It's time to throw another show.

Over the Memorial Day Weekend, next spring, POSSI will sponsor the OS/2 Warp Technical Interchange (Warp Tech), a technical feast for OS/2 users. The event, which will be held May 26-28, 2000, will be at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park, just west of Phoenix.

There's already been some discussion on the POSSI discussion list, and on the separate email list devoted to the "W2K" event. Perhaps you've heard the background noise, as the core volunteers hammered out the details. But we have enough of the structure set up, now, to share information with you, and to tell you what we have yet to accomplish.

Emphasizing the technical

The event will center on *technical* content regarding OS/2, and how to get the most out of the operating system. We expect to run several tracks, including OS/2 in the enterprise, small business OS/2 use, OS/2 on the Internet, and software development, with an emphasis on OS/2 Warp as both a server and client operating system. POSSI has excellent contacts within IBM, so we hope that many of these presentations will be given by the IBM developers who wrote that part of the operating system, or the expert on whatever topic is explained.

Of course, we invite members of the OS/2 community to share their knowledge, too; that's what user groups are all about!

As you might imagine, we're just beginning to put together the presentation program. (That's the advantage to planning the event well in advance.) We haven't confirmed speakers, yet, though we've begun conversations with several technology experts.

The presentations will stress interoperability, "how it works," and "how to get the best performance from your OS/2 tools." We'll solicit speakers on a range of technical topics, and we intend to attract authorities on each subject.

You can also count on an exhibit hall, where OS/2 software vendors and other OS/2-friendly companies can show you the solutions they offer. That will include the OS/2 software development community as well as the software industry at large (such as hardware vendors who have OS/2 drivers, and industry luminaries with a perspective that's relevant to OS/2 users of all flavors).

But don't feel that the event is likely to be too-much or not-enough of the right material for your needs. Because OS/2 users span the range of corporate computing managers to home users to small business owners, we need to balance the material so that everyone is happy.

You might notice that the event runs from Friday through Sunday. Because corporate OS/2 users will find it easier to attend on Friday, Friday's presentations will be scheduled as mostly business and development, and Sunday's sessions will have the majority of topics about personal use. For instance, Friday might have a session on OS/2 mainframe connectivity, and a Sunday presentation might describe how to set up your home network. This way, businesspeople can consider attending for the first day, and leave if they're truly not interested in more. Home users can fly into Phoenix on Friday without fear of missing as much.

Monday will be a free day for tourist activities—and trust us, we Phoenicians are quite proud of our city, so you'll hear about plenty of excursions.

What a venue!

We really lucked out by finding the Wigwam Resort (`www.wigwamresort.com`). The resort's ambiance is upscale yet comfortable, elegant without pretension. It's a Mobil 5-Diamond resort (and has been, for 24 years) with three golf courses, an award-winning fine dining restaurant, two swimming pools, bike rentals, and an overwhelming number of amenities. It has a laid-back comfortable ambiance that doesn't get in the way of its luxurious Arizona feel, and you'll find dozens of cozy corners in which to chat with your OS/2 friends. We'll have everything we need on the grounds.

The room rate at the Wigwam is only $99 per night. Feel free to compare those prices against their published rates, and you'll see that there's generally another digit in front of those two 9s!

The resort is in Litchfield Park, 25 miles west of the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. The hotel has transportation available to-and-from the airport, though you'll want to rent a car for on-your-own exploration. This will be a perfect retreat from the non-OS/2 world.

We're following through on that "retreat" theme. The event registration will include lunch, each day, and we expect to offer optional evening activities. For the most part, you'll be able to arrive at the Wigwam Resort and loll around in the luxury of OS/2, without other distractions.

Despite this, we're working to keep the event modestly priced, so that an individual user can attend without breaking into the piggy bank. We don't know the exact registration rates, yet, but we hope to have the numbers finalized by SCOUG's Warp Expo West, which will be held in southern California in mid-September (`www.scoug.com/warpexpowest`). We should be able to accept registrations at that time, or at least by Warpstock, which will be held in Atlanta in October (`www.warpstock.org`).

Getting involved

As with everything else in the Society, Warp Tech is a 100% volunteer event. It will be a success only if we all pitch in and contribute what we can.

I'm delighted to report that we have several volunteers on board already, taking charge of various facets of the event. Primary among them is Craig Greenwood (`reviews@possi.org`), who is the Event Dictator (he insisted on the title). We have a program chair, a volunteers chair, a Food SIG chair (our priorities are clear), and several other responsibilities assigned, but those individuals will need a lot of help. That's where you come in. Even if you can't attend Warp Tech, there's plenty of work to be accomplished before the event, from designing fliers and Web banner ads to database management. If you're willing to help, we'll find a way to use you.

If you want to see what progress has been made, between this writing and the arrival of the magazine in your mailbox, keep an eye on POSSI's Web site at www.possi.org; you'll soon see a link to the event Web pages, which are being designed by the able Jean Goddin (who does this sort of stuff for a living).

If you're interested in the details, or hoping that someone will ask you to help, please join the W2K email list by sending an email to `steward@bitranch.com` with the following text in the body (not subject!) of the message:

```
subscribe w2k
```

One way or another, we expect Warp Tech to be a rousing success for the OS/2 community—especially if we have your help.

SETI, and speed

Searching for intelligent life

by David Both

The Berkeley SETI@Home project has piqued my interest, lately. I see by the Warp team statistics that many of you have found this project as well.

The short story is that this project uses data collected by the radio telescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico, to search for radio signals produced by intelligent life on other planets. SETI is the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence. SETI@Home allows us average home computer users to participate in this search. In fact, the search could not take place without our home computers.

The project has a shoestring budget. It couldn't afford the CPU power to process the data collected during the two year project. The project organizers thought that it might be feasible to divide the data into small chunks and send it out to computer users on the Internet who would "volunteer" their computer time to do the processing. It is.

The details are at `setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu`.

Several versions of the software are available. I use the SETI@Home client software on nine computers of various types, speeds, and operating systems. Five computers run OS/2 Warp 4 or OS/2 Warp Server. Two run Windows NT 4.0, one runs the Red Hat Linux 6.0 distribution, and one runs Solaris 2.6.

As a side effect, after running what is essentially the same code on these systems for over three weeks, I have been able to compare the operating systems quite nicely.

I feel the need for speed!

The really interesting numbers are the amount of time it takes to generate results. You can see more detailed information on my personal Web site at `www.both.org/SETI@Home.HTML`. Basically, when gross adjustments are made for CPU speed, OS/2, Solaris, and Linux crank out results at about the same rate. NT takes longer.

My OS/2 Warp 4 system, running at 400 MHz, generates results in a little over 8 hours per unit. My 550MHz Pentium III system at work, running Windows NT 4.0, takes more than 9 hours for each result. Even granting that the single threaded code can run only on one processor, statistically speaking it should still produce results about 25% faster than the 400 MHz OS/2 system.

Although I'm aware that there are many reasons for this to occur, those reasons do not matter very much. So what if the compilers are different or that Windows NT has more OS overhead? The end result is that it takes significantly longer to do the same pure calculation in NT than it does in OS/2. End of story.

My second slowest system is a 133MHz Pentium server. It runs my two Web sites, and two SMTP mail server domains. It also runs SETI@Home. No one who visits my Web sites has—or will—notice a difference in the speed at which the data is served up. There are no delays. The bottleneck is still the slowest link on the Internet, whether that is my 128K ISDN connection or your modestly paced dial up connection.

I find it very interesting that the old 133 MHz system running Warp 4 can churn out results at 84% of the rate of a brand new Windows NT system with two processors, each of which is 400% faster, while still doing duty as a Web and email server. Plus, the Web server is Lotus Domino, which is not especially easy on system resources.

The Solaris, Linux, and OS/2 Warp systems just keep churning out results. On the Windows NT systems, the code sometimes hangs. It only hangs on the Windows NT systems. It has never hung on the OS/2 or Unix systems. I have to check the NT systems frequently to ensure that the SETI@Home code is still running and has not hung. Of course we have to check our Windows NT systems at work frequently to make sure they continue to run as they should, so I guess that isn't a surprise. (This is despite the fact that we have software that is supposed to do that checking for us.) I never have to check the Unix or OS/2 Warp systems because I know they are still running.

The existential question

All this brings me to the question: Why does anyone use Windows NT?

I know the answer, but I am not sure I want to share it. After all, the reason that so many Information Technologists have jobs these days is to keep all those Windows NT servers and workstations running, despite the resultant frustration.

And don't forget the boon to hardware vendors. Windows NT and all the related Microsoft Back Office and (front) Office applications suck up memory, disk space, network bandwidth, and CPU cycles like a black hole sucks up light.

The real answer is that technical decisions are being made by nontechnical people, i.e. managers. The decisions are made on the golf course rather than in the testing lab.

Too many consultants and network administrators are making too much money fixing problems and building kludges to circumvent one set of problems while creating another set. Why would they want to shoot the goose that laid the golden egg?

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Just the fax, ma'am

by Marilyn Pizzo

OS/2 has hidden treasures, such as FaxWorks for OS/2. Tucked away in the BonusPak is this 32-bit fax application that allows you to create, edit, send, and receive faxes using your computer and a fax modem.

The FaxWorks for OS/2 in the BonusPak is a "Lite" version of the full Keller Group product. Even as a Lite version, it works great. You can create and send a fax from within just about any application that supports printing.

Configuring FaxWorks

When you start FaxWorks for OS/2 for the first time, the Properties notebook appears. You're asked to configure some settings before using this software.

By default, the Cover information will appear on your cover sheet, so you need to provide your name, company name, phone, and fax numbers. By clicking the Enable box, you specify that the cover sheet should be sent with every outgoing fax. (Don't worry if you leave this box unchecked. You're given the opportunity to send a cover sheet when you actually are ready to send the fax.) Checking the Full page box tells the software to send the cover sheet as a full page. You can also select which bitmap should be used as default, such as your company logo. These default settings can all be changed later, by opening Settings from the Utilities pull down menu on the menu bar.

You can select the font to be used on the Cover Sheet, and there is a space to fill in additional text.

You'll notice that a fax usually has a header at the top, with the sender's name and/or fax number. You enter this information on the Headers page, as well as a place to enable a second header with the recipient's name. This feature is really helpful if you are sending a multiple page fax. It helps to label the pages as belonging together.

You'll find a few more configuration options to set, before you get started. There is a spot to put notes about the fax in the log record. You can specify a prefix to dial for get an outside line. There is a place for the Fax local ID (quite often the fax number you are transmitting from). Also, if a busy signal is detected when you send a fax, you can set how many times you want to retry to send the fax automatically, and how long to wait between each try. This setting is also on the Fax page.

The Voice page allows you to enable the optional voice features in the program. Of course, this is only good if you have supported fax/voice hardware.

The Modem page has several different items to configure. You need to specify the maximum baud rate your fax hardware will support. This version of FaxWorks has options up to 14,400bps. You can also control the speaker volume and whether it is on, off, or "speaks" only when dialing. You choose the phone line type: touch tone or pulse, and whether the program should wait for a dial tone. You can also specify how many rings FaxWorks should wait before answering an incoming call, when you are in receive mode.

The Modem Type page is where you specify what command set is required for your fax modem. FaxWorks supports four types of fax protocol: Send Fax, Class 1, Class 2, and Class 2.0. The protocol determines how the fax information is transmitted and received through the phone system. Different fax modems use different protocols.

The Ports page is really easy. Here you will choose which COM port your fax modem is attached to. You don't want to miss that or you won't have much luck sending faxes.

The Program page has several more options. You select your monitor type: color or monochrome. Then comes Tones. You can enable a brief tone providing audio feedback when the sending and receiving of faxes is complete. The Phone Book option lets you select the sorting and displaying of names in the Phone Book. If you want the first name displayed first, you must check the box. You can also select how the date will be displayed.

The last page in the settings area is Macros. You can assign names to dialing sequences such as a calling card number or a special long distance access code.

Using the program

Now that the configuring is done, let's move on to the fun stuff.

When you installed FaxWorks, a new object appeared on your desktop, called FxPrint, which looks like a fax machine. That device object includes the driver that will send your data to the fax modem. FaxWorks works just like any other printer driver, except that it prints out the COM port instead of to a regular printer.

FaxWorks will create a cover sheet. You can manually enter the recipient's name and fax number when you send the fax. Or, if the recipient is in your Phone Book, FaxWorks will take care of everything. You can send faxes two ways: from within an application or using drag and drop.

To send a fax from within an application, use the program's "choose a printer" function, and select the FxPrint option from the list of printers. Then "print" your document, and FaxWorks will ask for the recipient input. It is that simple.

To fax from within a Windows application running in a Win-OS/2 session, some additional steps are required. To fax from Windows applications, you use a Windows IBM Proprinter X24 printer driver. FaxWorks will catch the data and send it to the fax modem. To install the printer driver: Open a Win-OS/2 session from the Command Prompts folder. Open Main and Control Panel. Select Printers, the Add to add the IBM Proprinter. Press Install. Select Connect to connect the printer driver to the same port as the FaxWorks driver. Close Control Panel and exit the session. Whenever you select the IBM Proprinter in a Windows application, the data will be sent to FaxWorks.

Using drag and drop

You can also use Drag and Drop to send faxes. Simply drag the file object to the FxPrint object on the desktop. This works great for OS/2 applications. Documents created using Windows or DOS applications will have to be sent from within the application.

When you send a fax using either method, a Send Fax dialog box will appear, with all of the default settings you made when you first installed FaxWorks. You can change these settings if you wish: enable or disable the cover sheet, or change the bitmap used.

To select someone already in your Phone Book, double click the left mouse button to add that entry to the To field. If you regularly send faxes to the same people, you may want to enter their name and fax numbers into the Phone Book. Just right click on the Phone Book window to display the options. From here you can Accept selections (adding them to the To field), Edit an entry, create a New entry, Delete an entry, sort entries in your Phone Book by name, and sort the entries by company.

Receiving faxes

You can receive faxes by allowing FaxWorks to answer incoming calls and receive the incoming fax. The receive mode is turned off by default. If you activate the receive mode, FaxWorks takes over the modem and communication port. While that option is active, you cannot dial your Internet provider or do anything else involving the modem.

Select the Receive option from the Fax menu. There are three receive modes: Current call (immediately starts to receive a fax), one call (FaxWorks will answer the next incoming call, receive one fax, and then turn the receive mode off), and All calls (FaxWorks answers all incoming calls as fax calls).

FaxWorks allows you to edit a fax. Once the fax is received, you can read it, make notes and comments, underline parts, and then file the document for reference later. You can type directly on the fax or drag and drop an image file or bitmap onto the fax. After editing, you can send the fax to someone else or print it for your own file.

The program also has a Fax log, where you can store faxes you have sent or received. Open the Fax log from the toolbar or, from the Fax menu, select Open Log. You can right click on an entry in the log and open, print, delete, resend, or edit that entry.

FaxWorks for OS/2, found in the BonusPak, has everything that a home or small business user would want. You can set up a cover sheet, have a Phone Book of names and fax numbers, send and receive faxes, and make notes and comments right on the fax. It is certainly worth a look.

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Moving motivations

POSSI moves to a new meeting place

by Dick Krueger

Not long ago, one of our out-of-town members showed up unexpectedly for a meeting. (It happened to be a board meeting, but it could have been any meeting.) Wanting to surprise us, he didn't call first. You guessed it: that was the month we moved the meeting for logistics reasons.

Did we think to leave a note directing wayward attendees to the alternate location? No. Our lonely out-of-towner sent email, but of course nobody checks email during board meetings. He waited four hours, and finally gave up.

Don't let this happen to you. Pay attention: Beginning this month, September, the general meeting location is changing. Permanently.

New meeting site

The new location is in the Camel Square office complex, at the northwest corner of 44th Street and Camelback Road. Check the map in the center of the magazine for details. This location is $3^1/_2$ miles north on 44th Street from the Red Mountain Freeway (202). It's also $3^1/_2$ miles east on Camelback Road from the Squaw Peak Freeway (state route 51). From the Squaw Peak, exit at Colter (southbound) or Highland (northbound) to get to Camelback Road.

FOOBAR food: Nicky Hall helps set up some of the food for POSSI's fifth anniversary FOOBAR (Friends Of OS/2 Barbeque and Revelry).

This is a big change for the POSSI. We held general meetings at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center since February of 1995. Why are we doing this now?

Well, we can thank Burke Swanson. When he learned that our lease at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center was about to expire in August, he looked at other venues, and did a lot of research on alternatives.

Why 44th St. & Camelback? First, they have a meeting room that's available when we need it. It's the right size for us. They have most of the equipment we might need. And the prices are very reasonable. In fact, it's going to cost the user group about half what we've been spending.

Plus, in July, we held our general meeting at Lumature instead of MPRC. Because of our lease we still had to pay for the meeting space. At Camel Square we don't pay for the space if we meet somewhere else that month.

The new meeting location is also available for SIG meetings, if we so choose. It's just a matter of reserving the space and dealing with logistics.

Key requirement

Speaking of logistics, we need someone who's willing to pick up the key before 5:00pm the day of the meeting or the day before. If you can help out, please send an email to `president@possi.org`. Thanks.

What else does this new location have going for it? How about some great restaurants? Right across the street is Cork & Cleaver (American), Altos (Spanish), Streets of New York (pizza & pasta), French Ambience (French), Garcia's (Mexican, sort of), Havana Cafe (Cuban), Il Forno Ristorante (Italian), Jack in the Box (your guess). Some of these are among Arizona's finest.

Other restaurants in the area include Chianti (Italian), 3943 E Camelback Rd; La Fontanella (Italian), 4231 E Indian School Rd; Little Shanghai (Chinese), 4017 E Indian School Rd; T Cook's and Cabana Grill (Mediterranean), 5200 E Camelback Rd; Tee Pee (Mexican), 4144 E Indian School Rd; Norman's Arizona (Southwestern), 4410 N 40 St; Vincent Guerithault On Camelback (Southwestern) 3930 E Camelback Rd; Thai Lahna (Thai), 3738 E Indian School Rd. And that's just within a mile or so. In every direction there are restaurants of all types. Food SIGs should be easier to schedule (and offer more diversity).

As for the after-meeting meeting, Coyote Springs is only three miles away. On the other hand, some of the nearby restaurants have outdoor seating.

So don't forget the new meeting location on September 14th. See you there!

What's in (e-)store

by Esther Schindler

E-commerce is the new buzzword, and if you believe what it says in the magazines, every business with an ounce of sense is creating an online store. But "enterprise level" tools are overkill for most small businesses, and they cost an arm and a leg. Plus, there don't seem to be as many e-commerce site builder options for us OS/2 users.

Until now.

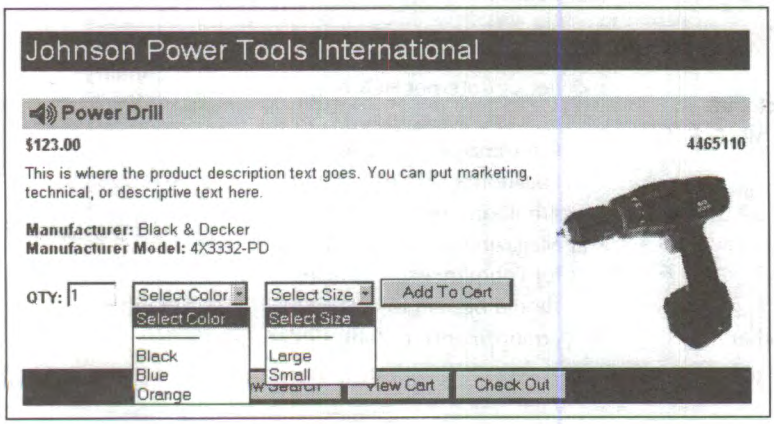
At the general meeting on Tuesday, September 14, a representative from iTool will show us how easy it is to create an online store. If you've been thinking about selling something online—or simply curious about the procedure—this is a meeting you can't miss.

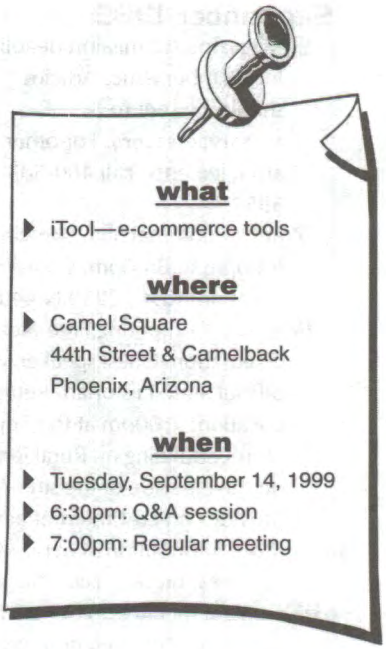
What is iTool?

iTool, which is a local Scottsdale company, hosts the e-commerce store at its site. You build and maintain the site through a Web browser... so the OS you choose is irrelevant. It also means that you have no extra software to purchase or install.

iTool combines high performance Web site hosting with its development tools, giving you everything you need to run your organization online in a single package. You can sign up for Web hosting alone—they include email accounts, interactive graphical statistics reports, multiple domain name hosting, a ColdFusion Web Application Server, a RealMedia Server, and so on. They also include site development tools, such as a site creation wizard and specialty templates for business types (like photographers and real estate agents).

But what's bound to attract you is its turnkey electronic commerce features. iTool uses browser based, database driven store construction, has key word searching, and supports secure credit card transactions with real time authorization. The cost for the basic e-commerce site is $49.96 per month.





When and where

This meeting will be the first one held at POSSI's new meeting site, at Camel Square. Give yourself a few extra minutes to find the place. Camel Square is on the northwest corner of 44th Street and Camelback, which sounds simple enough. However, the room itself may take you a few minutes to find. The Camel Square offices are in lettered buildings. Ours is in Building G, room G250.

The meeting day and time doesn't change. We're still meeting on Tuesday, September 14, at 7:00pm. The general Q&A session will begin at 6:30. We're sure to have an after-meeting meeting, too, where we quaff a few ales... but will th after-meeting meeting be back at our old Coyote Springs haunts, or will we try a new site? You'll have to show up and find out.

Coming events

A list of events scheduled by the Phoenix OS/2 Society and other OS/2 user groups.

history

September 1999

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

5 Magazine submission deadline for October issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

7 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

9 AzTeC Computing Free-Net five year anniversary celebration. Guest speaker Marshall Trimble, Arizona's official State Historian. Refreshments will be served. Location: 7:00pm at the Tempe Elementary School District Building on Rural Road, just north of Southern, on the east side of the street and north of Frys. (AzTeC provides no cost Internet access to Arizona residents.) More information at `http://aztec.asu.edu` or from `austin@aztec.asu.edu`. (Not a POSSI event.)

14 General meeting; iTool, a Web-based application to create your own e-commerce site. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. ***New location:*** Camel Square, G250, 44th St & Camelback, Phoenix.

18 Warp Expo West, Orange, CA. Free admission. See `www.scoug.com/warpexpowest` for details. (Not a POSSI event.)

21 Warp Tech planning session (and Food SIG). Meeting begins at 6:30pm. Location: C-Fu Gourmet, 32nd St & Lincoln, Phoenix.

25 Board meeting and magazine prep. Meeting is 10:00am to 1:00pm. Eat a brunch, learn about the inner workings of the Society, and help get extended attributes ready to mail. Location: Bill and Esther Schindler's house in north Scottsdale, 9355 E Mark Lane. Call 480-585-5852 or send email to `esther@bitranch.com` for directions.

October 1999

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

5 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for November issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

12 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Camel Square, G250, 44th St & Camelback, Phoenix.

16 Warpstock '99. Location: Atlanta, Georgia. See `www.warpstock.org` for details. (Not a POSSI event.)

23 Board meeting and magazine prep.

November 1999

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

2 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for December issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

9 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Camel Square, G250, 44th St & Camelback, Phoenix.

27 Board meeting and magazine prep.

December 1999

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

5 Magazine submission deadline for January issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

7 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

14 General meeting. Meeting is 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Q&A session is 6:30pm to 7:00pm. Location: Camel Square, G250, 44th St & Camelback, Phoenix.

25 Board meeting and magazine prep.

January 2000

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 net.sig (Internet SIG). Meeting is 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Coordinator Mike Briggs. Location: KDC, 2999 N 44th St, 4th floor, Phoenix.

5 Magazine submission deadline for February issue. Articles should be sent to `editor@possi.org`. For other arrangements, call 480-585-5852.

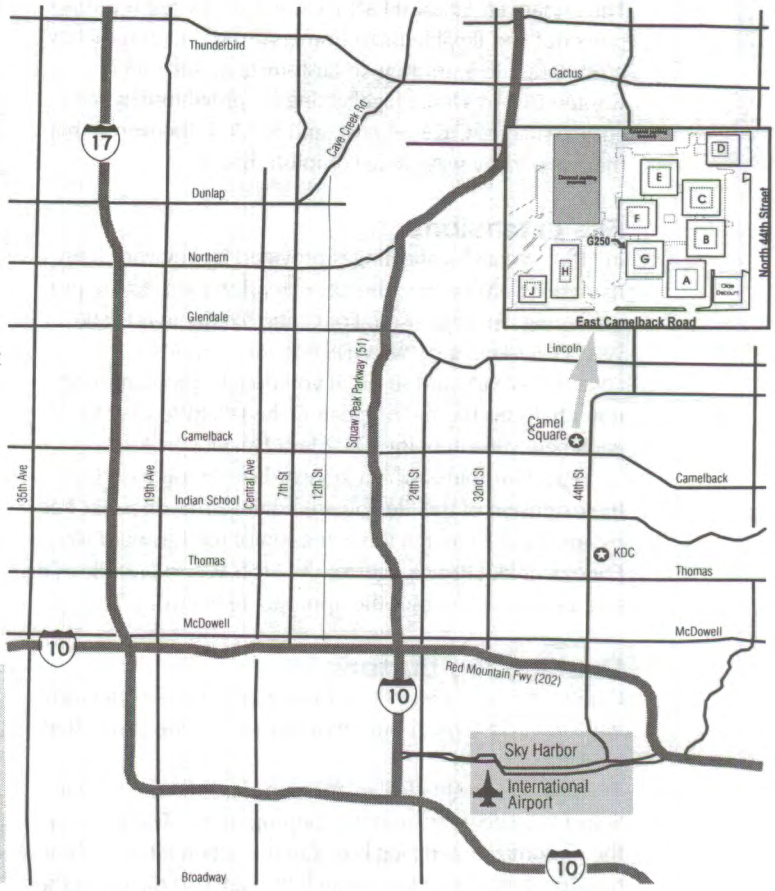
Meeting locations

Directions to meeting locations.

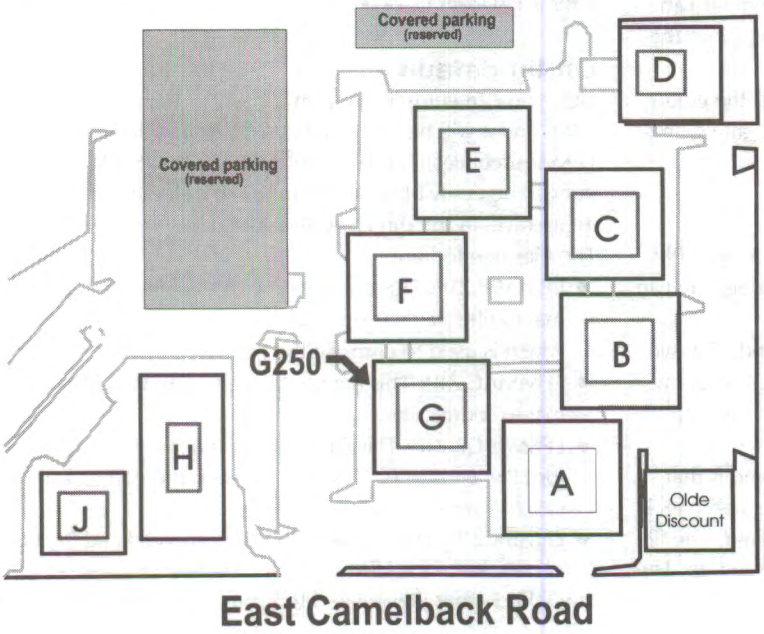
General meetings are held at the Camel Square office complex, Room G250, 44th Street and Camelback (northwest corner), Phoenix.

From the Red Mountain Freeway (202), exit at 44th Street and go north $3^1/_2$ miles. From the Squaw Peak (51), exit at Colter (southbound) or Highland (northbound); follow signs to Camelback Rd and go east $3^1/_2$ miles.

The "How OS/2 Works General Interest Group" and the Internet SIG (net.sig) meet at Knowledge Development Center, 2999 N 44th St, Suite 400. That's just north of Thomas, in the building with the green dome. Plenty of free parking is available in the garage behind the building.



If the mailing label on the back cover says "sample" then this may be the only copy of extended attributes that you will ever receive. If you want to keep getting the magazine (and receive all the other benefits of membership), you must join! A 12 month membership in the USA is only $30. (See the form for membership pricing in other areas.) Tear out the application, fill it in, and mail it with your membership fee today!



A map of Camel Square, the new location for the Society's monthly general meeting. We will be meeting in room G250. You may park anywhere except in the reserved (covered) parking spaces.

One of EPM's highlights

Learn how to add syntax highlighting to OS/2's EPM editor

by Richard Klemmer

The Enhanced Editor (EPM) included with OS/2 is a very powerful and flexible programmers' editor. Unfortunately, it's not easy to learn how to customize it. Recently, I wanted to add syntax highlighting for programming languages such as C/C++, Java, and REXX. I discovered that there are many ways to accomplish this.

File extensions

In EPM, syntax highlighting is provided by keyword files, named EPMKWDS.xxx; the xxx extension maps to the programming language used. For C, the file name is EPMKWDS.C, for Java it's EPMKWDS.JAV, for REXX it's EPMKWDS.CMD, and so on. If you do Java programming, note that IBM has been updating the EPMKWDS.JAV file in each new version of the OS/2 Java Developers Kit.

EPM determines which keyword file to use based on the extension of the file you are editing. This does not necessarily have to match the extension of the Keyword file. For example, EPM recognizes the HelloWorld.Java file as a Java program, and uses the appropriate keyword file.

Pushing my buttons

One of the easiest ways to add support for syntax highlighting is to add a toolbar button to turn highlighting on and off for the current file.

To do this, right click in an open space on the toolbar. Select "Create Item" from the pop-up menu. This brings up the customization dialog box. On the action tab is a "Function" drop-down list box. Search through that dialog for the item named "a_Togl_Hilit." Then go to the General Tab, and select a title and icon for your new button. Close the dialog box, and select "Add to Toolbar."

Now, whenever you have a file loaded into the editor, you can click on the icon to toggle syntax highlighting on or off.

Your wish is my...

Another way to add syntax highlighting is to use the EPM command dialog box. Using the command dialog, you can execute commands the EPM understands.

One of these is the "toggle_parse" command. The syntax of the command to add highlighting for "C" program source files is "toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.c." To turn off highlighting, just replace the "1" with a "0".

One advantage of the toggle_parse command is that you can execute EPM from the command line, and pass it the name of a file and the toggle_parse command. The file will load into EPM with highlighting already turned on. The syntax to do this is as follows:

```
epm HelloWorld.Java 'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.jav'
```

If you prefer to work from the command line, and want to add syntax highlighting this way, create a REXX script to take the file name and an indicator as to what type of file it is. Have the REXX program start EPM with the correct Keyword file. Here is a simple example.

```
/* ************************ ********************** */
/* Program: EPMS.CMD                               */
/* Purpose: Open a file in EPM with correct Syntax */
/*          Highlighting                           */
/* ************************ ********************** */
Parse Arg InOpt inFl
SELECT
   when InOpt="c" then
      "start epm" inFl "'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.c'"
   when InOpt="r" then
      "start epm" inFl "'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.cmd'"
   when inOpt="j" then
      "start epm" inFl "'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.jav'"
   when inOpt="p" then
      "start epm" inFl "'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.pl'"
   when inOpt="h" then
      "start epm" inFl "'toggle_parse 1 epmkwds.htm'"
   otherwise
      "start epm" inOpt
end /* select */
Exit
```

To execute this program:

```
EPMS j HelloWorld.Java
```

On by default

Last, you can compile support for syntax highlighting into EPM, and it will be on by default. To do this, you need the EPM source files. These do not come with OS/2 Warp 4, but can be easily obtained from the Internet in the Hobbes ftp archive, in the directory `/pub/os2/apps/editors/epm`. The files needed are:

- EPMAPP.ZIP: This contains the EPM application and macro files. It also contains the program ETPM.EXE, which is used to compile the macros.
- EPMMAC.ZIP: This file contains the standard EPM macro source files.
- EPMMAC2.ZIP: This file contains the macro source files for EPM version 6. This is the version the comes with OS/2 Warp 4.
- EPMBK.ZIP: This contains the User manual and Technical reference for EPM.

You'll find other files related to EPM on Hobbes, some of

which are bound to be of interest. For now, these files will get you started with customizing EPM.

EPM is made up of an executable, EPM.EXE, and a number of compiled macro files, with the extension .EX. These macro files are written in the E macro language, and the source for these macros are the files with the extension .E.

On a typical Warp 4 install, the executable macro files will probably be in the \OS2\APPS directory. When I customized EPM, I created a separate directory structure with all the files downloaded from hobbes, including EPM.EXE and all the .EX files.

Set up a temporary directory called EPM6, and put the E macro source files into a sub directory called MACROS. Then create a directory called MY-MACROS. This is where you will put the MYCNF.E configuration file.

Using the file MYCNF.E is the easiest way to customize EPM. This file is used by the macro files at compile time to modify the appearance and behavior of EPM. This is where you can set the default syntax highlighting behavior for EPM, along with many other modifiable options. This is accomplished with SET, CONST, and DEFINE statements. The MYCNF.E file should contain no executable code. A sample MYCNF file is included with the files from HOBBES, named MYCNF.SMP. This will show you what can be done, but I recommend that you do not simply copy this file and use it for your MYCNF.E file.

To turn on default syntax highlighting for various languages, add these lines to the MYCNF.E file.

```
const
   C_KEYWORD_HIGHLIGHTING = 1
   JAVA_KEYWORD_HIGHLIGHTING = 1
   REXX_KEYWORD_HIGHLIGHTING = 1
```

You can also turn on syntax assistance by default. Syntax assist automatically creates templates of standard language constructs such as "IF" or "FOR" statements, once you type in the initial word.

```
JAVA_SYNTAX_ASSIST = 1
REXX_SYNTAX_ASSIST = 1
```

After you create the MYCNF.E file, you need to compile the macros using the ETPM.EXE program. Before you do so, you need to set your EPMPATH environment variable to point to the correct directories. To do this, at a command prompt type

```
SET EPMPATH=x:\epm6;x:\epm6\mac-
ros;x:\epm6\my macros
```

To compile the macros, make sure you are in the directory where ETPM.EXE is, or that it is somewhere in your PATH, then type:

```
ETPM EPM
```

This will compile the macros and add any modifications you've made in the MYCNF.E file. Once this is done, you can run EPM from this directory. You can also copy the new .EX files over to the \OS2\APPS directory. Most likely, the only one that will be updated is the EPM.EX file, but you can check the file dates to make sure. You will then need to set your EPMPATH back to x:\OS2\APPS, or to wherever the original version of EPM was installed. I don't believe this will cause any problems, but it might be a good idea to back up the original .EX files that came with OS/2 Warp 4.

Then you can just start EPM, load a file into the editor, and if it is one of the supported programming languages, syntax highlighting will be on by default.

That's just the beginning!

There are many other features you can customize in EPM. Just read through the manuals to find out what is available and how you can customize it to your liking.

THE OS/2 SUPERSITE

http://www.os2ss.com

- Over 2 gigabytes of OS/2 shareware and freeware
- Mailing lists such as OS2USER and WarpCast
- Home of several popular OS/2 web sites such as OS/2 e-Zine!, EDM/2, OS/2 Connect, Loren Bandiera' s OS/2 News and Rumors Page, and Timur Tabi' s New OS/2 User page.
- The OS/2 Discussion Forum
- Online shareware registration and commercial software purchasing

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Club members get special deals on commercial software and $2.50 off **every** shareware application they register through BMT Micro. Members also get FTP access to the Supersite archive and space for their personal web page. See http://www.os2ss.com/club/ for details.

In the Driver Watch seat

New support for your OS/2 hardware

by David Wei, davidwei@cybermail.net

Last month, I reported that the Savage 3D/Savage 4 driver was available on Hobbes archive. I couldn't resist the price of the Savage 4 Pro with 32MB of video memory, so I got one generic Savage 4 Pro 32MB AGP card with the core running at 110MHz and memory at 125MHz.

The rough test result shows that Savage 3D/4's driver is a world away from the older ViRGE driver that prompted me to sell my ViRGE card. This time, Savage 4 was able to produce a well balanced score, with all the statistics squarely in the "average" box. On a 400MHz Celeron (overclocked to 500MHz) computer with 64MB, I got a SysBench score of 153.

The driver is available on Hobbes at `ftp://hobbes.nmsu.edu/pub/os2/system/drivers/video/s3d61005.zip`

CDRecord/2

CDRecord/2 is a CD-R/CD-RW freeware program ported from Unix for the creation of CDs.

Version 1.8a23 fixes the scanbus command and a bug in ReadCD.exe. REXX scripts make use easier, and the software has some minor enhancements.

You can get the file at `www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Sector/5785/cdrecord/cdrecordmain.htm`

For general info regarding CDRecord, check out `www.fokus.gmd.de/research/cc/glone/employees/joerg.schilling/private/cdrecord.html`

Matrox BIOS

Matrox had released BIOS update version 1.04 (8/03/1999) for their G200 and G400 series video card. This update installs G200 BIOS version 2.6 or G400 BIOS version 1.5, depending on which card you have.

Get it at `www.matrox.com/mga/drivers/bios/home2.htm`

TouchStone CardWare

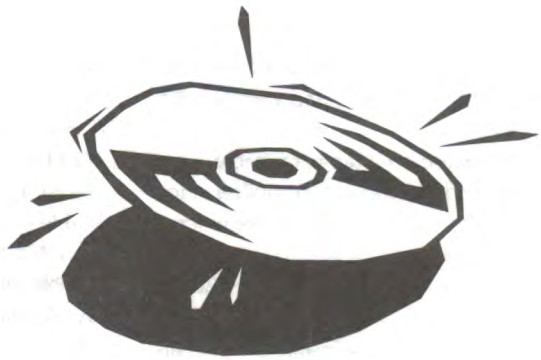
TouchStone, a German company, sells an OS/2 PCMCIA/PC Card/CardBus driver that supports tons of different PC Card/CardBus chipsets. Now with CardWare, there's one less concern when your are picking your ultimate OS/2 notebook!

Their company site is at `www.tssc.de`.

Other notebook related info can be found at `www.os2ss.com/users/DrMartinus/notebook.htm`

SciTech Software's SDD/2

SciTech Software released their SciTech Display Doctor Beta 4.1 for OS/2. The new version fixed bugs and added additional video card support.



SciTech Display Doctor Beta 4.1 can be downloaded at `www.scitechsoft.com/ftp/sdd/beta/os2/sdd-os2-7.0.0-b4.zip`

Hauppage WinTV/WinCast PCI

On July 15, Abbottsbury Software updated its Hauppage WinTV and WinCast PCI driver to version 1.041w for OS/2. According to the Web page, the driver is quite close to getting out of the beta stage.

Download it at `www.wdi.co.uk/os2tv/download.htm`

T&V HappyPlayer

T&V HappyPlayer is a generic TV card application. It supports cards based on the Brooktree BT848 or above chipsets. The English version of this project's home is hosted by the RU/2 site: `www.os2.spb.ru/russian/projects/happyplayer/index_e.html`

IBM Printer Driver Update.

IBM has updated its bundle of "One-For-All" printer drivers. Among them are OMNI.EXE (for dot-matrix and ink-jet printers), LASERJET.EXE (for Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and compatible printers) and IBMPCL5.EXE (PCL5 compatible printers). Find these files on the IBM device driver site.

Kodak drivers

Stephane Charette (`charette@writeme.com`) added support for the new Kodak DC240 digital camera to DCITU 1.8. More information on this and the other 32 digital cameras supported in OS/2 can be obtained from `http://users.uniserve.ca/~software/dcitu/index.html`

Walnut Creek Hobbes versus SuperSite CDs

Which one offers the best value?

by Elliot Abramowitz and Marc Abramowitz

Most OS/2 users know about the Hobbes ftp and Web site (hobbes.nmsu.edu), which has the latest OS/2 public domain and shareware files. So when a new Hobbes CD is released, with a subset of the Web/FTP site, many of us are anxious to purchase it. I currently use a modem to navigate the Hobbes site, search for the file and then download it, but that takes quite a bit of time. It's worth the money to have the files on hand to work with.

In March, I received an email from BMT Micro announcing its latest product update: the February 1999 release of Walnut Creek's Hobbes OS/2 Shareware CD. The $14.95 price didn't seem that bad for a two-disc compilation—and after all, it was supposed to be the "Ultimate Collection of Shareware and Freeware for OS/2."

Shortly after my Hobbes purchase, BMT released its second OS/2 SuperSite CD, which it described as the world's largest and most up-to-date collection of OS/2 shareware and freeware. This collection was based on the OS/2 SuperSite (`www.os2ss.com`) which has a section that mirrors the official Hobbes Web site.

This four-disc set cost $29.95 and included a voucher for a BMT Micro FixPack CD ($15, or $8 if you buy a subscription).

Because I purchased both products, which promise more-or-less the same contents, I thought it was appropriate to compare the two.

Size matters

I was instantly disappointed when I received my Hobbes collection. The former two-disc set had been whittled down to a single CD-ROM. When I called BMT, I learned that this was the way Walnut Creek released it. Walnut Creek told me that they made the CD-ROM based upon *their* own site, and not the actual university-based Hobbes site. As a result, you get less than 600MB of files, and because the site is not really based on Hobbes, you don't necessarily get the latest files.

Hobbes OS/2 Shareware CD
$29.95

Walnut Creek
800-786-9907

`www.cdrom.com`

The OS/2 SuperSite Software Collection
$29.95

BMT Micro
800-414-4268

`www.bmtmicro.com`

The SuperSite CD-ROM package has 4 CD-ROMs, with more than 2GB of programs and more than 5,000 assorted files. As of this writing, Hobbes uses 3,567MB, so you do receive the majority of the site.

Beside the size disparity, the main difference between the products is in collection structure. Both collections allow you to navigate using a Web browser.

With the Walnut CD, you can also navigate using a menu system that runs under DOS. It's colorful and eye catching. Unfortunately, when you run NetScape Navigator 4.04, the browser is unable to find the graphic image URL links on the CD-ROM. As a result, you get something that looks a tad awful. This is due to a bug in Navigator 4.04. It doesn't affect navigation of the CD or your ability to find a file, but just doesn't allow the SuperSite logos to be shown.

When you get down to the file level, you see similar information. I think that the SuperSite format is much cleaner in appearance.

What's inside?

I originally ordered the Walnut Creek CD so I could have various editions of the Warp 4 FixPacks. (I want to be able to recover to a previous version if I encounter a problem.) The SuperSite included FixPacks 1, 5, and 6; Walnut Creek's had only Warp 4's FixPack 1 on the disk.

Another difference is the date the set was mastered. Walnut Creek's mastering date was 8 January '99. SuperSite's mastering date was 22 March '99. Naturally, the later collection has more recent files.

I did have one problem with the SuperSite CD-ROM collection. I'm not excited about the way they distributed the files among the four disks. Each CD contains a file archive listing in text format, in addition to the directory structure. I would prefer that a master listing be placed on the first CD-ROM as well, enabling me to use it as a reference. Perhaps that listing could use a linked format, so you can be prompted to insert the correct CD-ROM instantly have the correct file at your fingertips.

Despite that criticism, in my opinion the BMT Micro SuperSite CD-ROM is the better product. Now, if they came out with quarterly updates, I'd have it made.

Y2K ongoing compliance

Are you *sure* your systems are ready for 2000?

by John Wubbel

Early this year, I talked about making your OS/2 applications Year 2000 Ready, often abbreviated as "Y2K compliant." So let's say that your platform is compliant, the Y2K testing is done, and your applications can handle dates without fault in the year 2000. But wait, are you *sure* your systems are ready?

Scanning your code for date hits, doing the analysis, remediating the problems found in processing dates, and testing your application can be a huge effort. Even given these conditions, you may not be finished once the test results are in and everyone has signed-off on the compliance certification document.

Keeping apps compliant

The next phase in maintaining computer systems and application software is the Ongoing Compliance (OC) phase. OC is within the domain of quality assurance. Therefore, much of the thinking regarding OC has to do with policy or guidelines for development groups and production to follow in a process known as clean management. From now until the end of 1999, applications tested "Y2K Ready" can go out of compliance.

A variety of things can happen to cause a loss of compliance, better known as "Change Events." Example change events taking place on applications are such things as fixes and enhancements to the code. On platforms, vendors discover additional problems with operating systems or network software where they have to release patches to correct date problems. The ground shifts under your feet without anyone knowing it, unless a policy is in place to monitor the possibility of these situations arising.

Large public companies have to be very robust with an OC policy for their in-house developed applications. Some companies must report their Y2K Readiness status to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and shareholders. If the percentage of applications reported as Y2K compliant have gone out of compliance, the numbers reported to the SEC and shareholders can have an adverse effect on the company's value. People automatically see the risk increase in terms of a date related fault occurring and the likelihood of lawsuits or impact to the firm's revenue stream.

Whether you are a small or large firm, the overriding concern is what earnings impact an out-of-compliant application will have on your business, or your customer's business, should it fail. This should be driving your will to practice a clean management policy.

Setting priorities

Before monitoring applications for compliance, you should set some priorities. Assigning a level of criticality to each application will give people a sense of how important it is that applications remain compliance.

An example of a Criticality I type application would be a revenue or billing system. Criticality II or III applications might include a Web application. Even an important application such as Payroll could be less than a Criticality I priority. You can design a contingency plan to pre-print payroll checks to ensure your people get paid something. Incorrect payroll can always be reconciled later with employees.

Critically also effects the policy for monitoring compliance. Criticality I applications should be Y2K retested whether or not the change has an impacting date. The policy for retesting of Criticality II and III type applications may be less strict concerning non-date impact changes.

If applications have been Y2K retested, supporting documentation such as test plans and results should be archived for future reference to show due diligence. Retesting for OC does not prove an applications Y2K readiness. That was accomplished in the previous phase. Retesting demonstrates ongoing compliance to the quality assurance

(QA) group that monitors compliance status of applications. The work of a QA person with respect to OC usually involves making sure the development group is following OC policy. For example, an OC Test Plan for a Criticality I application will be very similar to the test plan used in the original Y2K test effort for initial compliance. An individual unit test to numerous changes to a Criticality I application probably is not sufficient to prove OC.

Of course, what drives the policy has to do with many factors, such as application complexity, lines of code, etc. If your company is a large financial or telecommunications firm, the policy is probably comprehensive.

Quality assurance people monitoring ongoing compliance may have the right to ask for and approve Exceptions or Waiver Requests. Application groups that cannot meet specific terms of the policy should document an Exception approved by senior management until a plan can be executed to bring the application back into compliance. They may have a good business reason they cannot stay within the policy or they may be out of policy until they execute their plan for showing continued compliance. Typically, plans for proof of compliance should be completed quarterly.

Depending on the criticality, the plan may be an entire Y2K retest. For less critical applications, Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) may be conducted on the code with some touch point testing. IV&V can uncover problems where old non-remediated code was introduced back into the system accidentally. This can happen when groups have weak configuration management in place and not administered properly.

Who's in charge?

The role of the QA person monitoring compliance is to be constantly aware of how to help development groups lower the risk of a fault occurring. Most policies are "one size fits all" and cannot be tailored for each unique business group. The designated QA people may choose to audit an application to understand if the application is out of compliance. Auditing also helps the QA person to understand what a development group needs to do to return to a compliant state.

Audits involve the gathering of specific data attributes. Ideally, development or the quality assurance groups keep a change control database. The change control database tracks specific change events that have gone into production. Configuration Management (CM) logs are also important for assessing or reconciling build dates verses what is running in production. Here are some sample questions a QA analyst might request from development groups as part of the data gathering effort.

1. What is your Configuration Management / Version Naming convention?
2. Does your CM convention meet the PMO's minimum needs for reporting Ongoing Compliance accurately?
3. Do you have a single person responsible for Configuration Management?
4. Do developers have access to production libraries or directories?
5. Are your developers involved in doing the build in any way shape or form?
6. Does the CM person do complete system builds? (If not, they are suspect.)
7. Are files checked out without a lock?
8. Have files been checked in as a branch?
9. Has verification been kept by the CM person as to whether or not a branch has been pulled into the build?
10. Are file compares between builds conducted to check for differences?
11. Can you identify known changes from CM logs?
12. Can you differentiate changes from one version to the next?
13. Can you identify changes that are date impacted?
14. Do developers have CM privileges for check-in and check-out of code system wide, or are CM system administrators controlling ownership access rights by component parts?
15. What type of testing was conducted upon the date impacted changes?
16. What percentage of testing was conducted on the application compared to the initial compliance effort?
17. Were any test cases modified to retest the date impacted changes?
18. Have new test cases been written to achieve adequate coverage of date impacted changes?
19. What percentage of new or modified test cases were utilized out of the total number used in the retest?
20. What date impacted areas were affected? Indicate Date function(s), Interface, or Recovery?

Moratoriums

Finally, companies are planning to impose moratoriums on development groups. This policy does not allow for the introduction of new code by restricting the roll out of implementations or new releases.

Moratoriums usually start in the fourth quarter and may run well into the new year. Only under emergency circumstances should exceptions be approved. During the moratorium period, groups should be busy retesting or testing contingency plans.

While ongoing compliance of your application software means additional expenditures, you can view it as your insurance policy. It's insurance against losing your earlier investment in originally certifying the applications Y2K compliance.

John Wubbel is a computer programmer who has been consulting on Y2K issues for the last few years.

Clipboard utilities

by Julian Thomas

review

The "New and Improved" column in the March 1999 extended attributes included a reference to CCA (command-line clipboard access). Because I spend a lot of time in command line windows and in text mode editors like vi and kedit (a third-party version of IBM's famous XEDIT text editor), CCA caught my eye. Initially, I thought that the utility was in the same league as TWCP, which enables mouse clicks to replace the annoying text window dropdown menu for copy and paste. This was not the case.

However, in the course of researching the subject, I pulled down a number of clipboard utilities from Hobbes (`/pub/os2/util/clipbrd`) which you might be interested in learning about. The packages I evaluated have almost no overlap in function.

In the accompanying table, you'll see a summary of these packages.

TWCP

I've been using TWCP for years. My first GUI experience was not with Windows 3.1 or OS/2, but with Unix and X, where the mouse can be used to select and paste text. When I installed OS/2 on my home machine, I missed this capability—until I found TWCP. Installation is easy; you put the program somewhere in your path, and its DLL and HLP files in your LIBPATH and HELP paths. Start up the program to configure it and then enable it. Once TWCP is configured, it can be minimized and forgotten; I've had a shadow in my startup folder for years.

CCA 1.10

TOCLIP.EXE copies its command line argument or STDIN to the system clipboard. If the command line argument is more than one word, it must be quoted. FCLIP2.EXE copies the system clipboard to STDOUT. If I were to install this program, I'd rename it FROMCLIP.EXE! Both work well with redirection and pipes. The package also includes editor macros for Brief and Boxer; unfortunately, no editor macros are available for kedit. There's a text documentation file. This shareware package can be registered through BMT Micro. The unregistered version adds a "nag" line when clipping text, and also when text is retrieved from the clipboard.

CLIPBRD

CLIPBRD consists of a single program that uses command line flags to control the direction of transfer. The name of the program is unfortunate, since it conflicts with a program of the same name in Win-OS2; you will need to rename it or manage the order of your PATH search. CLIPBRD requires the emx runtime; if you don't have it, EMXRT.ZIP is available from Hobbes or the OS/2 SuperSite (`www.os2ss.com`).

CLIPBRD has one annoying property, because of its age. When it is first run, it gives the following message:

```
emx.dll: Stack size too small. Run emxstack -f E:\CLIPBRD\CLIPBRD.EXE and try again.
```

You do need to run emxstack for both CLIPBRD and PMCLIP. Fortunately, it only needs to be done once for each of the EXE files, as it rewrites the files with an adjusted stack.

The append/prepend operations are useful; unfortunately they won't work if the clipboard is empty. The package includes a short but adequate README file and source code.

CLIPIT

This program only runs in a full screen OS/2 session. It uses a private clipboard, not the system clipboard. Once it's run, CLIPIT is activated by Ctrl-F8, and you can select text to clip using cursor keys and Enter. It clips to a file, but

Table 1. Clipboard utilities

Utility	Archive	Date	Cost	Description
TWCP 1.23	twcp132.zip	1994	Free	Text window copy and paste to/from system clipboard using mouse clicks
CCA 1.10	cca_110.zip	1999	$12	command line argument or STDIN/STDOUT to/from system clipboard
CLIPBRD	clipbrd.zip	1993	Free	similar to CCA with additional options including append/prepend
CLIPIT	clipit10.zip	1990	Free	Full screen text windows only; private clipboard
MEGACLIP 02	mgclip02.zip	1997	Free (beta)	Multiple clipboard manager
PASTRYBOX	pstry106.zip	1996	Free (for home use)	Clipboard editing tool; allows selection of disjoint lines

does not import. It is billed as an OS/2 replacement for the DOS "snipper" program. The package includes a text documentation file.

MEGACLIP

This is a nice PM application patterned after MANYCLIP (an IBM EWS offering), and is still billed as a beta. There are still some crashes and rough edges. MEGACLIP opens a PM window with three sections: a toolbar, a "container" at the bottom which shows the current clips (which can be viewed as text or icons), and a work area, where a small window for each clipboard shows its contents. If you clip more information, you get another clip window. One interesting feature is the ability to work with bitmaps as well as text clips.

The RMB is used for popup menus. The one for the main work area includes:

- Show/Hide container (toggle option)
- freefloating windows (toggle option; when on, moves the clip windows out of the MEGACLIP work area and onto the desktop). These clip windows do not show up in the window list, although they can be moved between Object Desktop desktops.
- Autoretrieve (toggle option; when on, and something is clipped in another window, causes a new clip window to immediately open with the latest clip).
- Retrieve now—most useful when auto retrieve is off—causes a new clip window to be created with the current system clipboard contents.

Similarly, the clip window popup menu includes:

- Place in system clipboard
- Hold in system clipboard (even if additional information is clipped, the designated clip will remain in the clipboard)
- Save as
- Print
- Remove (see below)
- Find (brings up a find/replace dialog window, but replace doesn't work); text only
- Edit text (toggles the window in/out of edit mode); text only
- Strip newlines; text only
- Wrap (wraps the text for ease of viewing; doesn't change the contents); text only
- Keep proportional (images only).

The help file is empty except for some "about" information. The README.TXT is informative but not well presented.

This program has a few quirks. While "retrieve now" works in all cases tested, the autoretrieve mechanism works only for text clipped from a PM window or by TWCP but not for CCA or CLIPBRD. Clip windows are saved (in a subdirectory under the program working directory) until explicitly deleted, even if the program is shut down and restarted; because of this (and so it can find its INI file) this program really will work better if invoked by clicking on a program object rather than from the command line. You have to click on the titlebar, not just anywhere in the window, to restore focus to the program window.

PASTRYBOX

This PM tool is from the same author as CCA. It's best described by a quote from the documentation file:

"This utility allows the user to load a file or text from the clipboard into a listbox and then select multiple noncontiguous lines to be pasted to the clipboard in one operation."

I use it with an offline mail reader to select lines from other sources to paste into replies. It could also be used to select multiple names from an organization list to form a distribution list. It could also be used to make a subset of a list of items and copy the subset to the clipboard. There is no online help, but the utility is simple to use and the menu selections are similar to other OS/2 PM applications.

In other words, it allows you to open a file, select lines from here and there, and then copy them to the clipboard (or paste the clipboard into the window). I used the program to clip the above italicized text; note the unfortunate running together of words (theclipboard , etc.) that were separated in the original by a new line. There is no other provision for editing the contents of the window (aside from inserting a timestamp line or getting additional files), and it can only be stored via the clipboard. An INSTALL.CMD copies three files into /OS2/APPS on the boot drive and creates a program object on the desktop. Unfortunately, it's a pain to modify to install somewhere else; I just copied the files by hand and did without the program object for testing.

Conclusions

I continue to be enthusiastic about TWCP, and there are a couple of the other programs that I will keep on my machine. CLIPBRD has more function than CCA; in addition, it's free. I didn't find any use for CLIPIT; almost the only time I'm in a full screen OS/2 session is when I'm doing major editing, and my text editors have all the cut and paste function I need. Similarly, I would use an editor (and maybe a temporary file) instead of PASTRYBOX if I needed to collect disjoint lines from one or more files. I like MEGACLIP in spite of its quirks and some cosmetic warts; it's well thought out and has a lot of functionality. It and CLIPBRD (renamed to CB.EXE) have joined TWCP on my machine.

Julian Thomas is a retired IBM engineer and programmer who uses OS/2 for almost everything and is a member of the POSSI board of directors. He, his wife Mary Jane, and Matinicus, a red Maine Coon cat, live in the beautiful Finger Lakes Wine Country of New York State.

New and improved

compiled by Esther Schindler

There's not much to say about this month's batch of software, except that most appear to be useful utilities. So useful, in fact, that I encourage you to not only try them our for yourself, but to write a short review about the product for extended attributes.

Perhaps I should reassure you about how easy a review is to write. A lot of people are intimidated by the idea of writing a product review—it reminds them too much of fourth grade book reports—but it's really a fun process.

First, find an application that interests you. It's best if you know something about the product or topic area (spreadsheet users are better evaluators of other spreadsheet programs) but if you're actively curious, that's okay too. Send a note to `reviews@possi.org`, telling Craig what product you're interested in reviewing. If it's a commercial application, he'll arrange for the vendor to send you a copy, or will get you a shareware registration number. (In almost every situation, you get to keep the software. That's worth something, too.)

Craig will also send you a document explaining the process of writing a review—how to judge a product's value, how to give a fair examination—and will work with you to arrange a completion date for the review. You write the article and send it to `editor@possi.org`. We edit it—I assure you that even awkward writers have no reason to be embarrassed—and your article will appear in print in the next magazine.

It's fun, and your personal feedback will help other OS/2 users learn what products are worth their time and money. Why not give it a try?

JSyncManager for PalmPilot

This pure Java jSyncManager synchronizes your PalmOS-based handheld with any Java enabled OS, including OS/2. It's available at `http://yaztromo.idirect.com/java-pilot.html`.

Webalizer updated

The Webalizer is a fast, free, cross-platform Web server log file analysis program. It produces highly detailed, easily configurable usage reports in HTML format, for viewing with a standard Web browser.

Version 1.30 adds page and visit totals, entry/exit page statistics, search string analysis and support for wu-ftpd xferlog logs. The software is available at `www.mrunix.net/webalizer`, where you can find the source code, too.

New freeware utilities

Peter Engels (`p.engels@gmx.de`) has released three new freeware utilities for OS/2. NumLock sets the NumLock state to on. UpdSig adds a line to your News/Mail signature containing the system's uptime. UpdIni copies the OS2.INI and OS2SYS.INI to a RAM disk for faster access.

Find them at `www.uni-bonn.de/~uzs0ad`.

StWTV

Stefan Milcke (`Stefan.Milcke@t-online.de`) released StWTV 1.09, the TV Application for OS/2. This version adds clipping support in GRADD mode, and adjustable size of a digitized image. (Previous versions initialized the hardware with a fixed size of 400x300.)

StWTV 1.09 is time limited until October 15, 1999; the author intends to release the software as shareware at that time. It's available at `http://home.t-online.de/home/stefan.m ilcke/homepage.htm`.

SafeFire Firewall

Link Guard Solutions has reduced the price of it SafeFire Firewall by more than 25%. SafeFire Firewall 1.0 is a Network Address Translation (NAT)/Firewall solution for OS/2, designed to work with any type of LAN-to-LAN connection: xDSL, cable modems, or ordinary LANs.

SafeFire Firewall includes full support for FTP and IRC connections, including a builtin IDENT server, port mapping, and packet filtering. SafeFire Firewall has an unlimited number of supported users/connections, high performance, robustness, and on-the-fly configuration.

More details are at `www.lgs.kiev.ua`.

DFSee

Jan van Wijk (`dfsee@fsys.demon.nl`) released DFSee 3.01 utility, an FDISK, display, analysis and recovery tool for disks and filesystems. DFSee is a text-only utility, with versions for OS/2, DOS, and Windows NT.

The new version has windowing enhancements, more LVM display and some fixes (mainly DFSDOS). A history buffer enables previous commands to be recalled and edited.

You can get DFSee from `www.fsys.demon.nl`.

FileCheq for AntiVirus

Carsten Mueller's Warphouse released FileCheq 1.0 for AntiVirus, the third product in his line of AntiVirus tool add-ons.

FileCheq 1.0 provides a easy-to-use PM front end for Symantec Norton AntiVirus. FileCheq makes it as simple as possible to check single files or entire directories for virus infections. Just drag the file or directory object onto the

FileCheq object, and see what Norton AntiVirus reports.

FileCheq 1.0 for AntiVirus is free for non-commercial use. For commercial pricing, consult the readme file or contact the author via mail: cm@warphouse.de. Download the software at www.warphouse.de or visit the Warphouse section in the OS/2 A Vendors Forum on CompuServe (GO OS2AVEN).

Electronic Teller

Electronic Teller 3.15 is a financial application geared to those who need an OS/2-specific set of utilities to track bank, credit card, cash, asset, and liability accounts. For users who manage accounts for various individuals, Electronic Teller offers multi-user support, essentially a firewall to shield accounts contained in one "portfolio" from those in another.

New in this release, graphs now takes into account transfers between accounts. The Reconciliation Credit/Debit dialog has been improved so that codes, memorized names, and category lists appear in drop-down combination boxes, and name-completion has been incorporated.

You'll also find enhancements in category management, search and replace, and budget graphs.

Electronic Teller is $40. You'll find it at www.aei.ca/~phcaron.

RPF Zip Control

RPF Zip Control 2.6.3 is a OS/2 .zip archive management tool. Having moved from its early 1993 VisPro/Rexx beginnings to an efficient and powerful C .zip archive manager, Zip Control makes easy work of creating, testing, viewing, printing, opening, test running, virus scanning, converting to self-extracting archives, the contents of .zip archives.

This release adds support for Symantec Norton Antivirus 5.02.41, and support for UnZip 5.40.

The price is $35, $250, or $975, respectively for single user, single site, or multiple site licenses. You can find out more at www.rpfsoftware.com.

WiseTalker database server

Serenity Systems announced WiseTalker Database Server. Directed at DP consultants, this OS/2 product has been enabled for telephone access.

Many programmers pass on revenue opportunities involving Interactive Voice Response (IVR) jobs because of the need to interact with the phone system. The WiseTalker software handles that requirement, so all that remains is the DB application programming. And if you have REXX skills, or are ready to acquire some, you will be blown away by the power of this product.

Serenity Systems is delivering products aimed directly at small and medium sized businesses. The entry product is priced just under $3,000, and includes IBM DB2 with DB Expert from Sundial Systems to function as a front end to DB2, handling all the interactive manipulation of the data.

The Entry product includes sample scripts running on the DB2 sample database and supports as many as four incoming phone lines. However, the products scale up and are capable of supporting hundreds of incoming lines.

Information about the new product is at www.serenity-systems.com.

GTIRC 3.0 corrective service

Several users of GammaTech's IRC client, GTIRC 3.0 reported that the Workplace Shell freezes when initiating GTIRC after installing Fixpack 11 for OS/2 Warp 4.0. This is due to a problem loading OS/2 multimedia modules. GammaTech has provided corrective service for this problem in the Public Files area, www.gt-online.com/html/public_files. html, under the name grc99216.zip. You may work around the problem temporarily by pressing Alt+Esc or Ctrl+Esc a few times when the hang occurs.

Also, Jim Read (jread@gte.net) has taken over responsibility for some of the Gammat-

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An Email Server for You

Inet.Mail for OS/2

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Hethmon Brothers Software - Internet Server Software for OS/2
www.hethmon.com -- sales@hethmon.com

ech OS/2 utilities. Learn what's up at www.filestar.com.

Super Copy

Super Copy is a command-line utility for copying and backing up files, intended to be a replacement for copy and xcopy. Super Copy can also selectively copy files from one removable disk (or any comparable medium) to another, even if you only have a single disk drive to operate such media.

Super Copy optimizes memory usage. It can use all available memory under DOS. Runs in 386 protected mode, taking advantage of the greater memory capabilities of modern CPUs. Super Copy can address up to 4GB of memory, subject to OS limitations.

The program runs in compatibility mode under OS/2 and Windows (3.1, Windows 95/98/NT), and OS/2. Super Copy can use virtual memory under these operating systems. It also supports storage products from major manufacturers, including Iomega Zip drives and Syquest SyJets.

The shareware application is available at www.winsite.com/info/pc/win3/util/scdos100.zip.

Jcam

JCam is a Java application which allows digital camera owners to access and download pictures from a wide variety of popular digital cameras. (Its Web site hasn't been updated since November 1998, but if we just found out about it, maybe it's new to you, too.)

At present JCam support is limited to RS-232 based protocols, but support will be available for other interfaces such as PCMCIA, IrDA, and eventually USB and Firewire. JCam is unique among camera software in that it supports access to many different digital cameras across a range of OSs from a single application.

As install methods and native library support differ across OS platforms, JCam is provided in OS-dependent packages. Note, however, that the core application is identical across all platforms. As of November 1998, JCam was available for OS/2, Windows 95/98/NT, Linux, FreeBSD, and Solaris (on both x86 and Sparc).

RXSem

RXSem 1.0 is a well-documented REXX extension DLL providing nearly direct access to OS/2's native semaphores, both 16-bit and 32-bit mutex semaphores, and to 32-bit event semaphores. It has a few extras, including the ability to use DDE to Netscape (OpenNetscapeWindow), set the current window's title (RxWinSetTitle), query & set the process's priority (PriorityQuery/PrioritySet), find the process ID(s) of an executable (ProcessIDsOf), and even the ability to kill processes based on their process ID (KillProcess).

The new version is available both on Hobbes (/pub/os2/dev/rexx), and on the author's homepage, http://tower.to.org/rexxsem.

SmartSuite updated

Lotus has packaged updated files (dated July 29, 1999) for various components in SmartSuite 1.1. Since there are no instructions in the zip file, it's best to read the instructions at the Lotus site (don't you love these short URLs?):

www.support.lotus.com /sims2/sims_or2.nsf/430bb6168e25dd69852566430080b767/c980c1bf48fa57fa852567af00646c04.

A few of the attendees at FOOBAR: Robert Rosenwald (from the back), Elliot Abramowitz, Nicky Hall, Stan Hall, Esther Schindler

Marilyn Pizzo, Robert Rosenwald, Elliot Abramowitz, Nicky Hall, Esther Schindler

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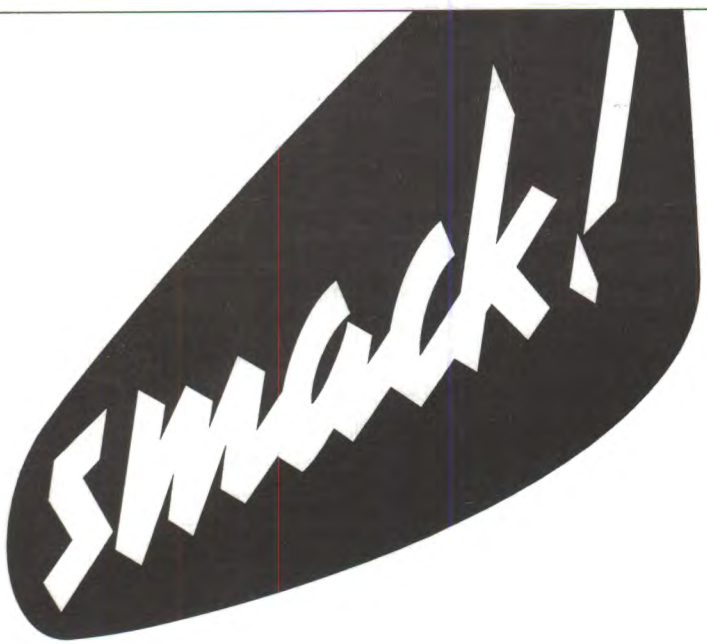

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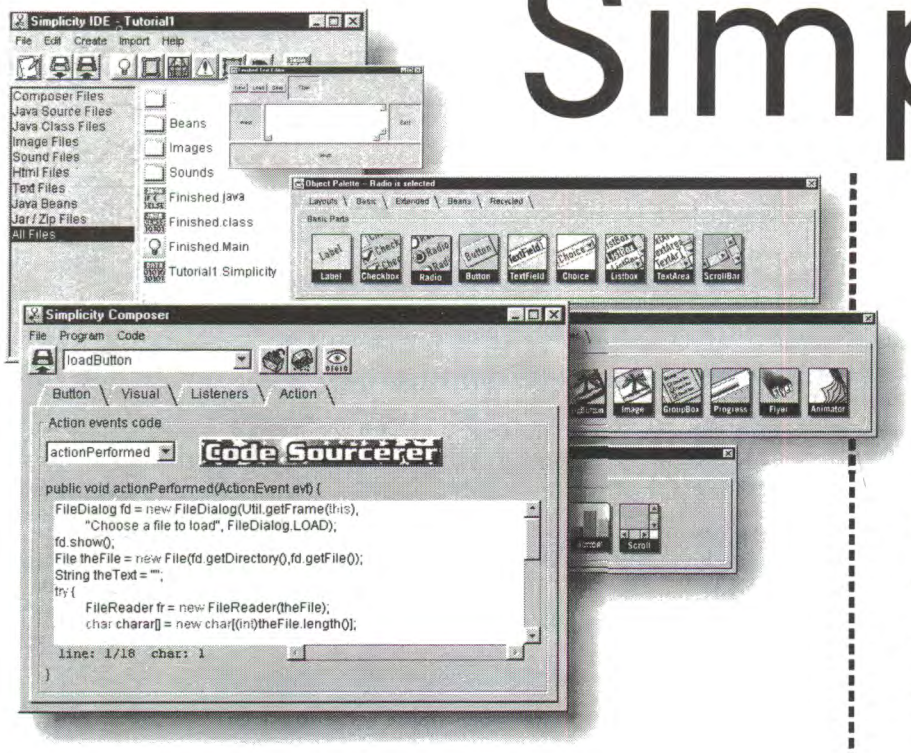

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